Note: The Education Report can be viewed online at http://www.bced.gov.bc.ca/news/report/

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In The News

B.C. Approves Gold Standard School in Growing Community

Education by the Numbers

Back to School Tips to Help Students Succeed

Province Supports Summer Literacy Camps in Nass Valley

$1.4M Seismic Upgrades for Coquitlam Elementary School

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Links

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Message from Minister Shirley Bond

Honourable Shirley Bond, Minister of Education

As summer winds down and thoughts shift to the school year ahead, it is important that students are prepared in order to achieve their best in school. Here are a few ideas and tips to help students start the 2008-09 school on the right foot.

It can be tough to get back on a school-day routine, so consider shifting bedtime and wake-up routines before school starts. Also, check to see what time schools start on the first day. Students in different grades may start at different times.

Set up a homework centre at home away from the TV and other distractions. Keep an assignment calendar nearby so you and your student know due dates and exam dates. You're also teaching them valuable time management skills.

Nutrition is important for students. It helps them grow and gives students the fuel they need to succeed in school. Make sure they eat a healthy breakfast. Pack a lunch filled with nutritional snacks. Keep healthy snacks at home, and make sure your children engage in daily physical activity – a healthy child is a successful student.

In the coming months, I look forward to continuing to visit schools and meeting students, parents, teachers, support staff workers and other education partners. I wish you all a successful school year.

Saanich School Wins Green Contest

Students at McTavish Elementary in Saanich won $50,000 as the winners of the "Be the Change! Share the Story" school video contest, about being "green" in the community. Students filmed what they do for the environment, including composting food waste, recycling paper towels and soft plastics, and reducing the waste at their school by 80 per cent. The money will go towards computers and building an organic gardening greenhouse. Congratulations!

HOT TOPIC

First Nations people play an important role in B.C. and this year a new course, taught from an Aboriginal perspective, will bring Aboriginal culture into the classroom. English 12 First Peoples is the academic equivalent of English 12, and students who take English 12 First Peoples will qualify for graduation and provincial scholarships. English 12 First Peoples is as rigorous as English 12 and includes a provincial exam.

English 12 First Peoples will encourage Aboriginal students to take courses that lead to post-secondary education and to provide ways for all students to see themselves reflected in the B.C. curriculum. The course will more accurately reflect the experiences of Aboriginal students and non-Aboriginal students will benefit from a deeper understanding of Aboriginal people and cultures.

The course curriculum was developed in partnership with the First Nations Education Steering Committee and is based on knowledge and understanding from Elders, educators and other content experts from within British Columbia's First Nations and Métis communities.

Most universities and colleges are recognizing English 12 First Peoples as the equivalent of the English 12 credit. Those schools include Simon Fraser University, University of Victoria, University College of the Fraser Valley, University of Northern British Columbia, Thompson Rivers University, Nicola Valley Institute of Technology. We expect other post-secondary institutions to also accept the course over the next few months.

Reading Corner

This is the classic story of a bashful pig named Wilbur who befriends a spider named Charlotte, who lives in the rafters above his pen. Wilbur is devastated when he learns about the destiny of pigs on a farm. Charlotte is determined to save her friend, and convince the farmer that Wilbur is no ordinary pig and should be saved. This story of friendship reminds us to open our eyes to miracles found in the simplest of things.

Charlotte's Web
Written by E.B. White